

REMARKS

Claims 1–18 were pending. Claims 1, 3–8, and 10–18 were rejected. Claims 2 and 9 were objected to as allowable but dependent on rejected base claims. Claims 1, 10, and 15 are amended herein. Claim 2 is cancelled herein. Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Originally-filed claim 2, which depended from claim 1 was objected to as allowable but dependent from a rejected base claim. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2. As a result, claims 1–9 are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Additionally, independent claims 10 and 15 have been amended to incorporate limitations substantially similar to those in claim 2. Thus, claims 10–18 are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections of all pending claims and a Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if that would be helpful in advancing the case towards allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

November 21, 2007

Date

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